

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5143

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2186

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS NP

SUBJECT: STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR PAMPHLETS ATTACKING KING

1. OFFICIAL IN HOME MINISTRY HAS REPORTED THAT "SEVERAL STUDENTS" HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN DANG AND BIRATNAGAR IN CONNECTION WITH DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLET WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "PERSONALLY ATTACKING HIS MAJESTY." ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY CONFIRM IT, WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT SOME PAMPHLETS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED WHICH CHARGE THAT KING IS PLANNING TO TAKE SECOND WIFE, THEREBY VIOLATING CONSTITUTIONAL BAN AGAINST POLYGAMY.

2. COMMENT: RUMORS THAT KING WAS TO REMARRY HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN NEPAL SINCE LAST DECEMBER BUT REACHED CRESCENDO IN EARLY APRIL. AS RESULT WE UNDERSTAND THAT KING HAS MADE CLEAR IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT RUMORS ARE FALSE AND ARE BEING SPREAD BY "ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO MONARCHY." HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ORDERED THAT JUDICIAL ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST ANYONE REPEATING OR DISSEMINATING STORY IN ANY FORM. AS RESULT OFFICIALS IN KATHMANDU HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY CIRCUMSPECT AND HAVE REFUSED TO DISCUSS QUESTION. WE NOTE THAT FOUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH "TREASONABLE ACTIVITIES" IN DANG LAST WEEK AND TWO STUDENTS ARRESTED IN BIRATNAGAR FOR "ANTI-GOVERNMENT" ACTIVITIES AND ASSUME THAT
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THESE ARE SAME CASES REFERRED TO BY HOME MINISTRY OFFICIAL.

WE HAVE NOT SEEN COPY OF PAMPHLET BUT UNDERSTAND THAT IT
IS EXTREMELY ANTI-MONARCHY AND "BORDERS ON OBSCENE."
ALTHOUGH CONGRESS PARTY AND NAXALITES HAVE ATTACKED MONARCHY
IN PAST, THIS IS FIRST INSTANCE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IN WHICH
ATTACKS HAVE BEEN LEVELED AGAINST KING PERSONALLY.
MAYTAG

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